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John Kean to Susan Kean, November 20, 1787

John Kean

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Charleston Novem^r. 20. 1787.

At five this afternoon my dear Susan
I landed after a passage of twelve days in
good health & lamenting nothing but the absence
of my love —

You need not be afraid hereafter of
venturing yourself in Saltus — for altho we
had much calm weather & were obliged to
Anchor on the shore of North Carolina for
two days, yet we had a few hours of such
weather as was sufficient to try any vessel
& would most certainly have discovered any
weak part —

I took cold the first day & was very
unwell for two or three days; indeed I have been
more sick this passage than I ever remember
to have been before —

22.

How unfortunate not a vessel in the
harbour either for New York or Philadelphia
all sailed a few days before our arrival and
my love must be kept in suspense & made

unrasy for a much longer time than I ever
wish her to be —

Several of my friends are in Charleston
from the Southward — their accounts are
not favorable — bad crops & other calamities,
but misfortunes is the lott of mankind —
whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth —
to refine is useles — superior degrees of
misfortune or long continued attacks borne
with equanimity prove the firmness of one
mind over another — I only lament as it
puts it out of my power to pay those unto
whom I am indebted — my ill genius not
satisfied with my having made a short crop
has persecuted me further in Prince Williams
parish — the day I was celebrating the
Anniversary of Don Carlos — my whole
Crop of rice — together with all my winter
provision for horses & cattle & Barn, Stable
& carriage house was burnt & not any thing
saved — I have not any account of how it

happened - but the loss I compute to be about five hundred guineas a severe blow to one already staggering - without I can get money on loan which I see no prospect of I must abandon my Georgia lands - but be not dispirited - without a degree of unfeelingness which I have no right to charge upon my creditors they will not press me under such circumstances -

Your situation my love had reached this place before your husband & all my friends & acquaintances knew the reason of your not accompanying of me - they have enquired kindly after you -

Mr John Bull is in this place - we lodge in the same house - he has been very ill & is much reduced - but is on the recovery -

Mrs Ramsay is in the straw - she has got a daughter - she lay in about a week ago -

I think of leaving this for Brauford on the 25th to see with my own eyes & then to form my judgement what is best to be done.

No accounts of Houstoun yet - Genl. Pinckney has been arrived near three weeks.

It is unluckily circuit time all the gentlemen of the bar are out of Town & I can do no business here -

Remember my Susan that the burthen you bear may be the comfort & blessing of our old age - take care of ~~it~~ yourself for its sake & his who loves you every day more & more -

Let me hear from you by every good opportunity & tell me all about Eliza -

My love to all the family -

Adieu

Pray send me all McLeans papers that have the Federalist in them -

Your affectionate husband

John Kean